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EXAMINER

SHELEHEDA, JAMES R

ART UNIT	PAPER NUMBER
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2614

DATE MAILED: 03/25/2005

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

Office Action Summary	Application No. 09/719,069	Applicant(s) KAWAMURA ET AL.	
	Examiner James Sheleheda	Art Unit 2614	

-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --

Period for Reply

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 3 MONTH(S) FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If the period for reply specified above is less than thirty (30) days, a reply within the statutory minimum of thirty (30) days will be considered timely.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133). Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

Status

- 1) ☐ Responsive to communication(s) filed on ____.
- 2a) ☐ This action is **FINAL**. 2b) ☒ This action is non-final.
- 3) ☐ Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

Disposition of Claims

- 4) ☒ Claim(s) 1-55 is/are pending in the application.
 4a) Of the above claim(s) ____ is/are withdrawn from consideration.
- 5) ☐ Claim(s) ____ is/are allowed.
- 6) ☒ Claim(s) 1-55 is/are rejected.
- 7) ☐ Claim(s) ____ is/are objected to.
- 8) ☐ Claim(s) ____ are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

Application Papers

- 9) ☐ The specification is objected to by the Examiner.
- 10) ☐ The drawing(s) filed on ____ is/are: a) ☐ accepted or b) ☐ objected to by the Examiner.
 Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).
 Replacement drawing sheet(s) including the correction is required if the drawing(s) is objected to. See 37 CFR 1.121(d).
- 11) ☐ The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner. Note the attached Office Action or form PTO-152.

Priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119

- 12) ☒ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
 a) ☒ All b) ☐ Some * c) ☐ None of:
1. ☒ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
 2. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. ____.
 3. ☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).

* See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.

Attachment(s)

- | | |
|---|--|
| 1) <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Notice of References Cited (PTO-892) | 4) <input type="checkbox"/> Interview Summary (PTO-413)
Paper No(s)/Mail Date. ____ |
| 2) <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948) | 5) <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of Informal Patent Application (PTO-152) |
| 3) <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO-1449 or PTO/SB/08)
Paper No(s)/Mail Date <u>12/07/00</u> . | 6) <input type="checkbox"/> Other: ____ |

DETAILED ACTION

Claim Objections

1. Claim 2 objected to because of the following informalities:

Claim 2 is incorrectly dependent upon itself. In claim 2, line 1, "claim 2" should be changed to --claim 1--.

In claim 44, line 5, the second instance of the phrase "of said packet" should be removed.

Appropriate correction is required.

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 102

2. The following is a quotation of the appropriate paragraphs of 35 U.S.C. 102 that form the basis for the rejections under this section made in this Office action:

A person shall be entitled to a patent unless –

(b) the invention was patented or described in a printed publication in this or a foreign country or in public use or on sale in this country; more than one year prior to the date of application for patent in the United States.

3. Claims 1-19, 30-32 and 43-45 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(b) as being anticipated by Fujimori et al. (Fujimori) (EP 841776).

As to claim 1, Fujimori discloses an information processing apparatus for forwarding the information to other information processing apparatus connected via a bus (column 1, lines 3-14 and column 5, lines 9-25), comprising:

time entry generating means (CPU, 33) for generating the time entry (Fig. 7B, column 2, lines 9-18 and column 5, lines 37-57); and

control means (CPU, 33) for packeting said time entry a predetermined format (1394, AV/C format; Fig. 7B, column 4, line 58 - column 5, lines 1-8 and column 5, lines 37-41), and transferring it via said bus to said other information processing apparatus (column 5, lines 42-57),

characterized in that a packet of said format has a command area for indicating the kind of a command at a predetermined location (OPC area indicating a time setting command; Figs. 7A and 7B, column 4, line 58 - column 5, lines 1-8), and a parameter area for the parameters of said command (parameter areas, OPR1-4; Figs. 7A and 7B and column 4, line 58 - column 5, lines 1-8), and said control means allocates said time entry to the parameter area of said packet (see Figs. 7A and 7B and column 4, line 58 - column 5, lines 1-8).

As to claim 2, Fujimori discloses wherein the information processing apparatus is characterized in that said format is an AV/C (Audio & Video/control) digital interface command set (column 5, lines 37-41 and Fig. 7B).

As to claim 3, Fujimori discloses an information processing apparatus for receiving a packet with a format (column 1, lines 3-14 and column 5, lines 9-25) having a command area for indicating the kind of a command (OPC area indicating a time setting command; Figs. 7A and 7B, column 4, line 58 - column 5, lines 1-8), and a parameter area for the parameters of said command via a bus (parameter areas,

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OPR1-4; Figs. 7A and 7B and column 4, line 58 - column 5, lines 1-8), characterized by comprising:

time entry generating means (CPU, 33) for generating the time entry (Fig. 7B, column 2, lines 9-18 and column 5, lines 37-57);

receiving means for receiving the packet of said format (column 5, lines 9-25 and lines 42-48);

command extracting means for extracting a command allocated the command area of the received packet (extracting and storing the received command; column 5, lines 19-25 and column 6, lines 49-54);

discriminating means for discriminating whether or not said packet is the time entry based on said extracted command (column 6, lines 29-36, lines 54-58 and column 7, lines 1-3);

parameter extracting means for extracting the time entry from the parameter area of said packet (column 6, lines 49-58 and column 7, lines 1-3), when said packet is discriminated to be the time entry by the discriminating means (wherein the controller recognizes the commands and processes in response to the particular command;

column 6, lines 29-36, lines 54-58 and column 7, lines 1-3); and

time-of-day adjusting means for adjusting the time entry which said time entry generating means generates (column 6, lines 54-58 and column 7, lines 1-3), based on said time entry extracted (based upon the extracted command and associated time entry; Fig. 7B, column 6, lines 54-58 and column 7, lines 1-3).

As to claim 4, Fujimori discloses wherein the information processing apparatus is characterized in that said format is an AV/C (Audio & Video/control) digital interface command set (column 5, lines 37-41 and Fig. 7B).

As to claim 5, Fujimori discloses an information processing apparatus for sending and receiving information to and from an other information processing apparatus connected via a bus (column 1, lines 3-14 and column 5, lines 9-25), characterized by comprising:

time entry generating means (CPU, 33) for generating the time entry (Fig. 7B, column 2, lines 9-18 and column 5, lines 37-57);

controlling means (CPU, 33) for packeting a read command for reading the time entry according to the time-of-day which has been set at the other information processing apparatus in a predetermined format (updating the time entry at the other apparatus using, AV/C format; Fig. 7B, column 4, line 58 - column 5, lines 1-8 and column 5, lines 37-41), and transferring it via said bus to said other information processing apparatus (column 5, lines 42-57); and

receiving means for receiving the time entry read out upon said read command from said other information processing apparatus (column 5, lines 19-25, column 6, lines 49-58 and column 7, lines 1-3), packeted in said format and transferred (Fig. 7B; column 5, lines 19-25, column 6, lines 49-58 and column 7, lines 1-3).

As to claim 6, Fujimori discloses wherein said information processing apparatus is characterized in that a packet of said format has a command area for indicating the kind of a command at a predetermined location (OPC area indicating a time setting command; Figs. 7A and 7B, column 4, line 58 - column 5, lines 1-8), and a parameter area for the parameters of said command (parameter areas, OPR1-4; Figs. 7A and 7B and column 4, line 58 - column 5, lines 1-8).

As to claim 7, Fujimori discloses a time adjusting means for adjusting the time entry which said time entry generating means generates (column 6, lines 54-58 and column 7, lines 1-3), based on said received time entry (based upon the received command and associated time entry; Fig. 7B, column 6, lines 54-58 and column 7, lines 1-3).

As to claim 8, Fujimori discloses wherein the information processing apparatus is characterized in that said read command specifies a predetermined unit of time (defined units, hours, minutes and seconds; see Fig. 7B).

As to claim 9, Fujimori discloses an information processing method for forwarding the information to other information processing apparatus connected via a bus (column 1, lines 3-14 and column 5, lines 9-25), comprising:

a first step of generating the time entry (Fig. 7B, column 2, lines 9-18 and column 5, lines 37-57); and

a second step of packeting said time entry a predetermined format (1394, AV/C format; Fig. 7B, column 4, line 58 - column 5, lines 1-8 and column 5, lines 37-41), and transferring it via said bus to said other information processing apparatus (column 5, lines 42-57),

characterized in that a packet of said format has a command area for indicating the kind of a command at a predetermined location (OPC area indicating a time setting command; Figs. 7A and 7B, column 4, line 58 - column 5, lines 1-8), and a parameter area for the parameters of said command (parameter areas, OPR1-4; Figs. 7A and 7B and column 4, line 58 - column 5, lines 1-8), and said second step further comprising allocating said time entry to the parameter area of said packet (see Figs. 7A and 7B and column 4, line 58 - column 5, lines 1-8).

As to claim 10, Fujimori discloses wherein the information processing method is characterized in that said format is an AV/C (Audio & Video/control) digital interface command set (column 5, lines 37-41 and Fig. 7B).

As to claim 11, Fujimori discloses an information processing method for receiving a packet with a format (column 1, lines 3-14 and column 5, lines 9-25) having a command area for indicating the kind of a command (OPC area indicating a time setting command; Figs. 7A and 7B, column 4, line 58 - column 5, lines 1-8), and a parameter area for the parameters of said command via a bus (parameter areas, OPR1-4; Figs. 7A and 7B and column 4, line 58 - column 5, lines 1-8), characterized by comprising:

a first step of generating the time entry (Fig. 7B, column 2, lines 9-18 and column 5, lines 37-57);

a second step of receiving the packet of said format (column 5, lines 9-25 and lines 42-48);

a third step of extracting a command allocated the command area of said received packet (extracting and storing the received command; column 5, lines 19-25 and column 6, lines 49-54);

a fourth step of discriminating whether or not said packet is the time entry based on said extracted command (column 6, lines 29-36, lines 54-58 and column 7, lines 1-3);

a fifth step of extracting said time entry from the parameter area of said packet (column 6, lines 49-58 and column 7, lines 1-3), when said packet is discriminated to be the time entry by the discriminating means (wherein the controller recognizes the commands and processes in response to the particular command; column 6, lines 29-36, lines 54-58 and column 7, lines 1-3); and

a sixth step of adjusting the time entry generated at the first step (column 6, lines 54-58 and column 7, lines 1-3), based on said time entry extracted (based upon the extracted command and associated time entry; Fig. 7B, column 6, lines 54-58 and column 7, lines 1-3).

As to claim 12, Fujimori discloses wherein the information processing method is characterized in that said format is an AV/C (Audio & Video/control) digital interface command set (column 5, lines 37-41 and Fig. 7B).

As to claim 13, Fujimori discloses an information processing method for sending information to and from the other information processing apparatus connected via a bus (column 1, lines 3-14 and column 5, lines 9-25), characterized by comprising:

first step of generating the time entry (Fig. 7B, column 2, lines 9-18 and column 5, lines 37-57);

second step of packeting a read command for reading the time entry according to the time-of-day which has been set at said other information processing apparatus predetermined format (updating the time entry at the other apparatus using AV/C format; Fig. 7B, column 4, line 58 - column 5, lines 1-8 and column 5, lines 37-41), transferring it via said bus said other information processing apparatus (column 5, lines 42-57); and

a third step of receiving the time entry read out upon said read command from said other information processing apparatus (column 5, lines 19-25, column 6, lines 49-58 and column 7, lines 1-3), packeted in and receiving the said format and transferred (Fig. 7B; column 5, lines 19-25, column 6, lines 49-58 and column 7, lines 1-3).

As to claim 14, Fujimori discloses wherein said information processing method is characterized in that a packet of said format has a command area for indicating the kind

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of a command at a predetermined location (OPC area indicating a time setting command; Figs. 7A and 7B, column 4, line 58 - column 5, lines 1-8), and a parameter area for the parameters of said command (parameter areas, OPR1-4; Figs. 7A and 7B and column 4, line 58 - column 5, lines 1-8).

As to claim 15, Fujimori discloses a time adjusting means for adjusting the time entry which said time entry generating means generates (wherein the device updates it's current time entry with the newly received one; column 6, lines 54-58 and column 7, lines 1-3), based on said received time entry (based upon the received command and associated time entry; Fig. 7B, column 6, lines 54-58 and column 7, lines 1-3).

As to claim 16, Fujimori discloses wherein the information processing method is characterized in that said read command specifies a predetermined unit of time (defined units, hours, minutes and seconds; see Fig. 7B).

As to claim 17, Fujimori discloses an information processing system for sending and receiving the information between a first and a second electronic device connected via a bus (column 1, lines 3-14 and column 5, lines 9-25), characterized by comprising:

first controlling means (CPU, 33) which is provided in said first electronic device for packeting the first time entry according to the time-of-day which has been set at said first electronic device in a predetermined format (1394, AV/C format; Fig. 7B, column 4,

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line 58 - column 5, lines 1-8 and column 5, lines 37-41), and transferring it via said bus said second electronic device (column 5, lines 42-57); and

second controlling means (CPU, 33), which is provided in said second electronic device (column 6, lines 33-34, lines 43-48), for setting the time-of-day of said electronic device based on said first time entry transferred from said first control means (column 6, lines 29-36, lines 54-58 and column 7, lines 1-3).

As to claim 18, Fujimori discloses wherein the information processing system is characterized in that a packet of said format has a command area for indicating the kind of a command at a predetermined location (OPC area indicating a time setting command; Figs. 7A and 7B, column 4, line 58 - column 5, lines 1-8), and a parameter area for the parameters of said command (parameter areas, OPR1-4; Figs. 7A and 7B and column 4, line 58 - column 5, lines 1-8), and said first control means allocates said first time entry to the parameter area of said packet (see Figs. 7A and 7B and column 4, line 58 - column 5, lines 1-8).

As to claim 19, Fujimori discloses wherein the information processing apparatus is characterized in that said format is an AV/C (Audio & Video/control) digital interface command set (column 5, lines 37-41 and Fig. 7B).

As to claim 30, Fujimori discloses an information processing method for sending and receiving the information between a first and a second electronic device connected via a bus (column 1, lines 3-14 and column 5, lines 9-25), characterized by comprising:

a first step of packeting the first time entry according to the time-of-day set in said first electronic device in a predetermined format (1394, AV/C format; Fig. 7B, column 4, line 58 - column 5, lines 1-8 and column 5, lines 37-41), and transferring it via said bus to said second electronic device (column 5, lines 42-57); and

a second step of setting the time-of-day of said second electronic device (column 6, lines 29-36, lines 54-58 and column 7, lines 1-3), based on said first time entry transferred from said first electronic device (column 6, lines 29-36, lines 54-58 and column 7, lines 1-3).

As to claim 31, Fujimori discloses wherein the information processing method is characterized in that a packet of said format has a command area for indicating the kind of a command at a predetermined location (OPC area indicating a time setting command; Figs. 7A and 7B, column 4, line 58 - column 5, lines 1-8), and a parameter area for the parameters of said command (parameter areas, OPR1-4; Figs. 7A and 7B and column 4, line 58 - column 5, lines 1-8), and said first electronic device allocates said first time entry to said parameter area of said packet (see Figs. 7A and 7B and column 4, line 58 - column 5, lines 1-8).

As to claim 32, Fujimori discloses wherein the information processing system is characterized in that said format is an AV/C (Audio & Video/control) digital interface command set (column 5, lines 37-41 and Fig. 7B).

As to claim 43, Fujimori discloses a recording medium characterized by having recorded a program for executing (column 1, lines 3-14 and column 5, lines 9-25), characterized by comprising:

a first step of packeting the first time entry according to the time-of-day which has been set in a first electronic device in a predetermined format (1394, AV/C format; Fig. 7B, column 4, line 58 - column 5, lines 1-8 and column 5, lines 37-41), and transferring it via a bus to a second electronic device (column 5, lines 42-57); and

a second step of setting the time-of-day of said second electronic device (column 6, lines 29-36, lines 54-58 and column 7, lines 1-3), based on said first time entry transferred from said first electronic device (column 6, lines 29-36, lines 54-58 and column 7, lines 1-3).

As to claim 44, Fujimori discloses wherein the recording medium is characterized in that a packet of said format has a command area for indicating the kind of a command at a predetermined location (OPC area indicating a time setting command; Figs. 7A and 7B, column 4, line 58 - column 5, lines 1-8), and a parameter area for the parameters of said command (parameter areas, OPR1-4; Figs. 7A and 7B and column 4, line 58 - column 5, lines 1-8), and said first electronic device allocates said first time

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entry to said parameter area of said packet (see Figs. 7A and 7B and column 4, line 58 - column 5, lines 1-8).

As to claim 45, Fujimori discloses wherein the recording medium is characterized in that said format is an AV/C (Audio & Video/control) digital interface command set (column 5, lines 37-41 and Fig. 7B).

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 103

4. The following is a quotation of 35 U.S.C. 103(a) which forms the basis for all obviousness rejections set forth in this Office action:

(a) A patent may not be obtained though the invention is not identically disclosed or described as set forth in section 102 of this title, if the differences between the subject matter sought to be patented and the prior art are such that the subject matter as a whole would have been obvious at the time the invention was made to a person having ordinary skill in the art to which said subject matter pertains. Patentability shall not be negated by the manner in which the invention was made.

5. Claims 20-28, 33-41 and 46-54 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Fujimori in view of Armstrong (5,542,047).

As to claim 20, Fujimori discloses an information processing system for sending and receiving the information between a first and second electronic devices connected via a bus (column 1, lines 3-14 and column 5, lines 9-25), characterized by comprising:

first controlling means (Fig. 2; CPU, 33), which is provided in said first electronic device (column 5, lines 33-36); and

second controlling means (CPU, 33), which is provided in said second electronic device (Fig. 2), for packeting time entry according to the time-of-day set at said second electronic device in said format (AV/C format; Fig. 7B, column 4, line 58 - column 5,

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lines 1-8 and column 5, lines 37-41), and transferring it to said first controlling means (column 4, line 58 - column 5, lines 1-8 and column 5, lines 37-41);

in which said first control means reads the time entry transferred via said bus from said second control means (column 6, lines 29-36, lines 54-58 and column 7, lines 1-3).

While Fujimori discloses wherein the first control means packets a command (wherein each device can transmit commands to any other device and get a response; column 1, lines 37-54) in a predetermined format (column 5, lines 37-41) and transfers it via said bus to said second electronic device (column 1, lines 37-54), he fails to specifically disclose transferring a read command to said second device and transferring the time entry to said first device on the basis of said read command transferred from said first device.

In an analogous art, Armstrong discloses a communications network (Fig. 1) wherein a node newly added to the system will forward a read command (time update request; column 6, lines 21-26 and lines 44-46) to a dispatching node which will then broadcast the correct time value to all of the nodes (column 6, lines 38-46) in response to the read command (in response to a node indicating a time update request; column 6, lines 40-46) for the typical benefit of ensuring that a newly added network node contains the correct time (column 6, lines 38-46).

It would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art at the time of invention by applicant to modify Fujimori's system to include transferring a read command to said second device and transferring the time entry to said first device on

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the basis of said read command transferred from said first device, as taught by Armstrong, for the typical benefit of ensuring that any new apparatus added to a network will contain the correct time, as desired by Fujimori (see Fujimori at column 5, lines 58-column 6, line 1).

As to claim 21, Fujimori and Armstrong disclose wherein said information processing system is characterized in that a packet of said format has a command area for indicating the kind of a command at a predetermined location (OPC area indicating a time setting command; see Fujimori at Figs. 7A and 7B, column 4, line 58 - column 5, lines 1-8), and a parameter area for the parameters of said command (parameter areas, OPR1-4; see Fujimori at Figs. 7A and 7B and column 4, line 58 - column 5, lines 1-8), said first control means allocates the read command to the command area of said packet (wherein all commands are indicated in the command area of the packet; see Fujimori at column 4, line 58-column 5, line 8), and said second control means allocates the time entry to the parameter area of said packet for a response command (see Fujimori at column 4, line 58-column 5, line 8).

As to claim 22, Fujimori and Armstrong disclose wherein the information processing system is characterized in that said format is an AV/C (Audio & Video/control) digital interface command set (see Fujimori at column 5, lines 37-41 and Fig. 7B).

As to claim 23, Fujimori and Armstrong disclose wherein said first control means resets the time entry according to the time-of-day set at said first electronic device (see Fujimori at column 6, lines 54-58 and column 7, lines 1-3), based on said time entry transferred via said bus from said second control means (based upon the received command and associated time entry; see Fujimori at Fig. 7B, column 6, lines 54-58 and column 7, lines 1-3).

As to claim 24, Fujimori and Armstrong disclose wherein said information processing system is characterized in that a packet of said format has a command area for indicating the kind of a command at a predetermined location (OPC area indicating a time setting command; see Fujimori at Figs. 7A and 7B, column 4, line 58 - column 5, lines 1-8), and a parameter area for the parameters of said command (parameter areas, OPR1-4; see Fujimori at Figs. 7A and 7B and column 4, line 58 - column 5, lines 1-8), said first control means allocates the read command to the command area of said packet (wherein all commands are indicated in the command area of the packet; see Fujimori at column 4, line 58-column 5, line 8), and said second control means allocates the time entry to the parameter area of said packet for a response command (see Fujimori at column 4, line 58-column 5, line 8).

As to claim 25, Fujimori and Armstrong disclose wherein the information processing system is characterized in that said format is an AV/C (Audio &

Video/control) digital interface command set (see Fujimori at column 5, lines 37-41 and Fig. 7B).

As to claim 26, Fujimori discloses an information processing system for sending and receiving the information between a first and a second electronic devices connected via a bus (column 1, lines 3-14 and column 5, lines 9-25), characterized by comprising:

first controlling means (Fig. 2; CPU, 33), which is provided in said first electronic device (column 5, lines 33-36); and

second controlling means (CPU, 33), which is provided in said second electronic device (Fig. 2), for packeting a time entry corresponding to a specified time unit (corresponding to the current time in hours, minutes and seconds; Fig. 7B) among the time-of-day set at said second electronic device in said format (AV/C format; Fig. 7B, column 4, line 58 - column 5, lines 1-8 and column 5, lines 37-41), and transferring it to said first control means (column 4, line 58 - column 5, lines 1-8 and column 5, lines 37-41);

characterized in that said first control means updates the time entry according to the time-of-day set at said first electronic device (see Fujimori at column 6, lines 54-58 and column 7, lines 1-3), based on said time entry transferred via said bus from said second control means (based upon the received command and associated time entry; see Fujimori at Fig. 7B, column 6, lines 54-58 and column 7, lines 1-3).

While Fujimori discloses wherein the first control means packets a command (wherein each device can transmit commands to any other device and get a response; column 1, lines 37-54) in a predetermined format (column 5, lines 37-41) and transfers it via said bus to said second electronic device (column 1, lines 37-54), he fails to specifically disclose transferring a read command to said second device and transferring the time entry to said first device on the basis of said read command transferred from said first device.

In an analogous art, Armstrong discloses a communications network (Fig. 1) wherein a node newly added to the system will forward a read command (time update request; column 6, lines 21-26 and lines 44-46) to a dispatching node which will then broadcast the correct time value to all of the nodes (column 6, lines 38-46) in response to the read command (in response to a node indicating a time update request; column 6, lines 40-46) for the typical benefit of ensuring that a newly added network node contains the correct time (column 6, lines 38-46).

It would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art at the time of invention by applicant to modify Fujimori's system to include transferring a read command to said second device and transferring the time entry to said first device on the basis of said read command transferred from said first device, as taught by Armstrong, for the typical benefit of ensuring that any new apparatus added to a network will contain the correct time, as desired by Fujimori (see Fujimori at column 5, lines 58-column 6, line 1).

As to claim 27, Fujimori and Armstrong disclose wherein said information processing system is characterized in that a packet of said format has a command area for indicating the kind of a command at a predetermined location (OPC area indicating a time setting command; see Fujimori at Figs. 7A and 7B, column 4, line 58 - column 5, lines 1-8), and a parameter area for the parameters of said command (parameter areas, OPR1-4; see Fujimori at Figs. 7A and 7B and column 4, line 58 - column 5, lines 1-8), said first control means allocates the read command to the command area of said packet (wherein all commands are indicated in the command area of the packet; see Fujimori at column 4, line 58-column 5, line 8), and said second control means allocates the time entry to the parameter area of said packet for a response command (see Fujimori at column 4, line 58-column 5, line 8).

As to claim 28, Fujimori and Armstrong disclose wherein the information processing system is characterized in that said format is an AV/C (Audio & Video/control) digital interface command set (see Fujimori at column 5, lines 37-41 and Fig. 7B).

As to claim 33, Fujimori discloses an information processing method for sending and receiving the information between a first and second electronic devices connected via a bus (column 1, lines 3-14 and column 5, lines 9-25), characterized by comprising:

a second step of packeting a time entry according to the time-of-day set at said second electronic device in said format (AV/C format; Fig. 7B, column 4, line 58 -

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column 5, lines 1-8 and column 5, lines 37-41), and transferring it to said first controlling means (column 4, line 58 - column 5, lines 1-8 and column 5, lines 37-41); and

a third step in which said first electronic device reads said time entry transferred via said bus from said second electronic device (column 6, lines 29-36, lines 54-58 and column 7, lines 1-3).

While Fujimori discloses wherein a first step of packeting a command (wherein each device can transmit commands to any other device and get a response; column 1, lines 37-54) in a predetermined format (column 5, lines 37-41) and transferring it via said bus to said second electronic device (column 1, lines 37-54), he fails to specifically disclose transferring a read command to said second device and transferring the time entry to said first device on the basis of said read command transferred from said first device.

In an analogous art, Armstrong discloses a communications network (Fig. 1) wherein a node newly added to the system will forward a read command (time update request; column 6, lines 21-26 and lines 44-46) to a dispatching node which will then broadcast the correct time value to all of the nodes (column 6, lines 38-46) in response to the read command (in response to a node indicating a time update request; column 6, lines 40-46) for the typical benefit of ensuring that a newly added network node contains the correct time (column 6, lines 38-46).

It would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art at the time of invention by applicant to modify Fujimori's system to include transferring a read command to said second device and transferring the time entry to said first device on

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the basis of said read command transferred from said first device, as taught by Armstrong, for the typical benefit of ensuring that any new apparatus added to a network will contain the correct time, as desired by Fujimori (see Fujimori at column 5, lines 58-column 6, line 1).

As to claim 34, Fujimori and Armstrong disclose wherein said information processing system is characterized in that a packet of said format has a command area for indicating the kind of a command at a predetermined location (OPC area indicating a time setting command; see Fujimori at Figs. 7A and 7B, column 4, line 58 - column 5, lines 1-8), and a parameter area for the parameters of said command (parameter areas, OPR1-4; see Fujimori at Figs. 7A and 7B and column 4, line 58 - column 5, lines 1-8), said first step comprising allocating said read command to the command area of said packet (wherein all commands are indicated in the command area of the packet; see Fujimori at column 4, line 58-column 5, line 8), and said second step comprising allocating said time entry to the parameter area of said packet for a response command (see Fujimori at column 4, line 58-column 5, line 8).

As to claim 35, Fujimori and Armstrong disclose wherein the information processing system is characterized in that said format is an AV/C (Audio & Video/control) digital interface command set (see Fujimori at column 5, lines 37-41 and Fig. 7B).

As to claim 36, Fujimori and Armstrong disclose a fourth step of said first electronic device resetting the time entry according to the time-of-day set at said first electronic device (see Fujimori at column 6, lines 54-58 and column 7, lines 1-3), based on said time entry transferred from said second electronic device (based upon the received command and associated time entry; see Fujimori at Fig. 7B, column 6, lines 54-58 and column 7, lines 1-3).

As to claim 37, Fujimori and Armstrong disclose wherein said information processing system is characterized in that a packet of said format has a command area for indicating the kind of a command at a predetermined location (OPC area indicating a time setting command; see Fujimori at Figs. 7A and 7B, column 4, line 58 - column 5, lines 1-8), and a parameter area for the parameters of said command (parameter areas, OPR1-4; see Fujimori at Figs. 7A and 7B and column 4, line 58 - column 5, lines 1-8), and said first step comprising allocating said read command to said command area of said packet (wherein all commands are indicated in the command area of the packet; see Fujimori at column 4, line 58-column 5, line 8), and said second step comprising allocating said time entry to the parameter area of said packet for a response command (see Fujimori at column 4, line 58-column 5, line 8).

As to claim 38, Fujimori and Armstrong disclose wherein the information processing system is characterized in that said format is an AV/C (Audio &

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Video/control) digital interface command set (see Fujimori at column 5, lines 37-41 and Fig. 7B).

As to claim 39, Fujimori discloses an information processing method for sending and receiving the information between a first and a second electronic devices connected via a bus (column 1, lines 3-14 and column 5, lines 9-25), characterized by comprising:

a second step of packeting a time entry corresponding to a specified time unit (corresponding to the current time in hours, minutes and seconds; Fig. 7B) among the time-of-day set at said second electronic device in said format (AV/C format; Fig. 7B, column 4, line 58 - column 5, lines 1-8 and column 5, lines 37-41), and transferring it to said first electronic device (column 4, line 58 - column 5, lines 1-8 and column 5, lines 37-41); and

a third step in which said first electronic device updates the time entry according to the time-of-day set at said first electronic device (column 6, lines 54-58 and column 7, lines 1-3), based on said time entry transferred via said bus from said second electronic device (based upon the received command and associated time entry; Fig. 7B, column 6, lines 54-58 and column 7, lines 1-3).

While Fujimori discloses wherein a first step of packeting a command (wherein each device can transmit commands to any other device and get a response; column 1, lines 37-54) in a predetermined format (column 5, lines 37-41) and transferring it via said bus to said second electronic device (column 1, lines 37-54), he fails to specifically

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disclose transferring a read command to said second device and transferring the time entry to said first device on the basis of said read command transferred from said first device.

In an analogous art, Armstrong discloses a communications network (Fig. 1) wherein a node newly added to the system will forward a read command (time update request; column 6, lines 21-26 and lines 44-46) to a dispatching node which will then broadcast the correct time value to all of the nodes (column 6, lines 38-46) in response to the read command (in response to a node indicating a time update request; column 6, lines 40-46) for the typical benefit of ensuring that a newly added network node contains the correct time (column 6, lines 38-46).

It would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art at the time of invention by applicant to modify Fujimori's system to include transferring a read command to said second device and transferring the time entry to said first device on the basis of said read command transferred from said first device, as taught by Armstrong, for the typical benefit of ensuring that any new apparatus added to a network will contain the correct time, as desired by Fujimori (see Fujimori at column 5, lines 58-column-6, line 1).

As to claim 40, Fujimori and Armstrong disclose wherein said information processing method is characterized in that a packet of said format has a command area for indicating the kind of a command at a predetermined location (OPC area indicating a time setting command; see Fujimori at Figs. 7A and 7B, column 4, line 58 - column 5,

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lines 1-8), and a parameter area for the parameters of said command (parameter areas, OPR1-4; see Fujimori at Figs. 7A and 7B and column 4, line 58 - column 5, lines 1-8), said first control means allocates the read command to the command area of said packet (wherein all commands are indicated in the command area of the packet; see Fujimori at column 4, line 58-column 5, line 8), and said second control means allocates the time entry to the parameter area of said packet for a response command (see Fujimori at column 4, line 58-column 5, line 8).

As to claim 41, Fujimori and Armstrong disclose wherein the information processing method is characterized in that said format is an AV/C (Audio & Video/control) digital interface command set (see Fujimori at column 5, lines 37-41 and Fig. 7B).

As to claim 46, Fujimori discloses a recording medium characterized by having a program for executing (column 1, lines 3-14 and column 5, lines 9-25):

a second step of packeting a time entry according to the time-of-day set at said second electronic device in said format (AV/C format; Fig. 7B, column 4, line 58 - column 5, lines 1-8 and column 5, lines 37-41), and transferring it to said first controlling means (column 4, line 58 - column 5, lines 1-8 and column 5, lines 37-41); and

a third step in which said first electronic device reads said time entry transferred via said bus from said second electronic device (column 6, lines 29-36, lines 54-58 and column 7, lines 1-3).

While Fujimori discloses wherein a first step of packeting a command (wherein each device can transmit commands to any other device and get a response; column 1, lines 37-54) in a predetermined format (column 5, lines 37-41) and transferring it via said bus to said second electronic device (column 1, lines 37-54), he fails to specifically disclose transferring a read command to said second device and transferring the time entry to said first device on the basis of said read command transferred from said first device.

In an analogous art, Armstrong discloses a communications network (Fig. 1) wherein a node newly added to the system will forward a read command (time update request; column 6, lines 21-26 and lines 44-46) to a dispatching node which will then broadcast the correct time value to all of the nodes (column 6, lines 38-46) in response to the read command (in response to a node indicating a time update request; column 6, lines 40-46) for the typical benefit of ensuring that a newly added network node contains the correct time (column 6, lines 38-46).

It would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art at the time of invention by applicant to modify Fujimori's system to include transferring a read ~~command to said second device and transferring the time entry to said first device on~~ the basis of said read command transferred from said first device, as taught by Armstrong, for the typical benefit of ensuring that any new apparatus added to a network will contain the correct time, as desired by Fujimori (see Fujimori at column 5, lines 58-column 6, line 1).

As to claim 47, Fujimori and Armstrong disclose wherein said information processing system is characterized in that a packet of said format has a command area for indicating the kind of a command at a predetermined location (OPC area indicating a time setting command; see Fujimori at Figs. 7A and 7B, column 4, line 58 - column 5, lines 1-8), and a parameter area for the parameters of said command (parameter areas, OPR1-4; see Fujimori at Figs. 7A and 7B and column 4, line 58 - column 5, lines 1-8), said first step comprising allocating said read command to the command area of said packet (wherein all commands are indicated in the command area of the packet; see Fujimori at column 4, line 58-column 5, line 8), and said second step comprising allocating said time entry to the parameter area of said packet for a response command (see Fujimori at column 4, line 58-column 5, line 8).

As to claim 48, Fujimori and Armstrong disclose wherein the information processing method is characterized in that said format is an AV/C (Audio & Video/control) digital interface command set (see Fujimori at column 5, lines 37-41 and Fig. 7B).

As to claim 49, Fujimori and Armstrong disclose a fourth step of said first electronic device resetting the time entry according to the time-of-day set at said first electronic device (see Fujimori at column 6, lines 54-58 and column 7, lines 1-3), based on said time entry transferred from said second electronic device (based upon the

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received command and associated time entry; see Fujimori at Fig. 7B, column 6, lines 54-58 and column 7, lines 1-3).

As to claim 50, Fujimori and Armstrong disclose wherein said information processing system is characterized in that a packet of said format has a command area for indicating the kind of a command at a predetermined location (OPC area indicating a time setting command; see Fujimori at Figs. 7A and 7B, column 4, line 58 - column 5, lines 1-8), and a parameter area for the parameters of said command (parameter areas, OPR1-4; see Fujimori at Figs. 7A and 7B and column 4, line 58 - column 5, lines 1-8), and said first step comprising allocating said read command to said command area of said packet (wherein all commands are indicated in the command area of the packet; see Fujimori at column 4, line 58-column 5, line 8), and said second step comprising allocating said time entry to the parameter area of said packet for a response command (see Fujimori at column 4, line 58-column 5, line 8).

As to claim 51, Fujimori and Armstrong disclose wherein the information processing method is characterized in that said format is an AV/C (Audio & Video/control) digital interface command set (see Fujimori at column 5, lines 37-41 and Fig. 7B).

As to claim 52, Fujimori discloses a recording medium characterized by having a program for executing (column 1, lines 3-14 and column 5, lines 9-25):

a second step of packeting a time entry corresponding to a specified time unit (corresponding to the current time in hours, minutes and seconds; Fig. 7B) among the time-of-day set at said second electronic device in said format (AV/C format; Fig. 7B, column 4, line 58 - column 5, lines 1-8 and column 5, lines 37-41), and transferring it to said first electronic device (column 4, line 58 - column 5, lines 1-8 and column 5, lines 37-41); and

a third step in which said first electronic device updates the time entry according to the time-of-day set at said first electronic device (column 6, lines 54-58 and column 7, lines 1-3), based on said time entry transferred via said bus from said second electronic device (based upon the received command and associated time entry; Fig. 7B, column 6, lines 54-58 and column 7, lines 1-3).

While Fujimori discloses wherein a first step of packeting a command (wherein each device can transmit commands to any other device and get a response; column 1, lines 37-54) in a predetermined format (column 5, lines 37-41) and transferring it via said bus to said second electronic device (column 1, lines 37-54), he fails to specifically disclose transferring a read command to said second device and transferring the time entry to said first device on the basis of said read command transferred from said first device.

In an analogous art, Armstrong discloses a communications network (Fig. 1) wherein a node newly added to the system will forward a read command (time update request; column 6, lines 21-26 and lines 44-46) to a dispatching node which will then broadcast the correct time value to all of the nodes (column 6, lines 38-46) in response

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to the read command (in response to a node indicating a time update request; column 6, lines 40-46) for the typical benefit of ensuring that a newly added network node contains the correct time (column 6, lines 38-46).

It would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art at the time of invention by applicant to modify Fujimori's system to include transferring a read command to said second device and transferring the time entry to said first device on the basis of said read command transferred from said first device, as taught by Armstrong, for the typical benefit of ensuring that any new apparatus added to a network will contain the correct time, as desired by Fujimori (see Fujimori at column 5, lines 58-column 6, line 1).

As to claim 53, Fujimori and Armstrong disclose a packet of said format has a command area for indicating the kind of a command at a predetermined location (OPC area indicating a time setting command; see Fujimori at Figs. 7A and 7B, column 4, line 58 - column 5, lines 1-8), and a parameter area for the parameters of said command (parameter areas, OPR1-4; see Fujimori at Figs. 7A and 7B and column 4, line 58 - column 5, lines 1-8), said first control means allocates the read command to the command area of said packet (wherein all commands are indicated in the command area of the packet; see Fujimori at column 4, line 58-column 5, line 8), and said second control means allocates the time entry to the parameter area of said packet for a response command (see Fujimori at column 4, line 58-column 5, line 8).

As to claim 54, Fujimori and Armstrong disclose wherein said format is an AV/C (Audio & Video/control) digital interface command set (see Fujimori at column 5, lines 37-41 and Fig. 7B).

6. Claims 29, 42 and 55 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Fujimori and Armstrong as applied to claims 27, 40 and 53 above, and further in view of King et al. (King) (5,761,455).

As to claims 29, 42 and 55, while Fujimori and Armstrong disclose a response command for forming the packet in said format and transferring said time entry, they fail to specifically disclose allocating a wait command as a response, and wherein said first control means is recognized in a wait state for a predetermined time until said time entry is transferred based on said wait command.

In an analogous art, King discloses a bus arbitration system (Fig. 1) wherein a wait command is transmitted to a processor in response to a request for data (when more than one processor requests access; column 4, lines 45-57) and where the requested information is provided to the processor waiting for a predetermined time (waiting until it's priority is greatest; column 4, lines 58-67) for the typical benefit of arbitrating data requests across a shared bus (column 4, lines 45-57).

It would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art at the time of invention by applicant to modify Fujimori and Armstrong's system to include allocating a wait command as a response, and wherein said first control means is recognized in a wait state for a predetermined time until said time entry is transferred based on said wait

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command, as taught by King, for the typical benefit of arbitrating data requests for shared resources across a bus.

Conclusion

7. The following are suggested formats for either a Certificate of Mailing or Certificate of Transmission under 37 CFR 1.8(a). The certification may be included with all correspondence concerning this application or proceeding to establish a date of mailing or transmission under 37 CFR 1.8(a). Proper use of this procedure will result in such communication being considered as timely if the established date is within the required period for reply. The Certificate should be signed by the individual actually depositing or transmitting the correspondence or by an individual who, upon information and belief, expects the correspondence to be mailed or transmitted in the normal course of business by another no later than the date indicated.

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Commissioner for Patents
P.O. Box 1450
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Please refer to 37 CFR 1.6(d) and 1.8(a)(2) for filing limitations concerning facsimile transmissions and mailing, respectively.


8. Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to James Sheleheda whose telephone number is (571) 272-7357. The examiner can normally be reached on 9:00-5:30.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, John Miller can be reached on (571) 272-7353. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 703-872-9306.

Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free).

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